

MOAA



VOICE

Military Officers Association of America
Redwood Empire Chapter

Post Office Box 2801
Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0801

VOLUME 51, NUMBER 9

"Serving Those Who Serve America"

SEPTEMBER 2021



PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

We made it! Not that I haven't had a beer in the past year, but it was great that we could gather again for our monthly pub crawl at a local brewery. It was a small gathering, but the beer was good and we had a great time. This brewpub is in my neighborhood, they have a nice out-

door seating area and a nice selection of beers. It's a little bit out-of-the-way and for some hard to find, and their lunch menu was somewhat limited. So after listening to the input of the members who were there it was decided to look for a different location. So I took a drive out to the local casino and checked out their facilities. They have several restaurants but the one I like is called the Daily Grill. It has both indoor and outdoor seating and a very nice menu. They have three large parking lots so there's plenty of room for parking.

I talked to the manager and they would be happy to have us use their facilities. Like any other business they would like to have some idea how many people might be present. We don't need reservations, but if anybody who wanted to call or email me and let me know they're coming to our Pub Crawl on the second Thursday, September 9th, I could give them an idea how many people might be present. The casino is quite large, but the room we would use is separated and very quiet.

Once again we are trying get back to our normal in person gatherings. This is just another effort by your board to generate some interest and give us an opportunity where we can safely gather for our monthly Chapter luncheons. So we will meet on Thursday, September 23rd.

Major Kenneth Johnson, USAF, President
408-466-6764 ~ kenthetraveler@gmail.com

NO CHAPTER DUES FOR 2021

Because of the COVID-19 virus and the fact that people had to shelter in place and we had no social gatherings, the Board of Directors has decided to waive the Chapter dues for 2021. We hope that our members will support the Chapter in the future. Our membership is down, and we do not want to lose any more of our members.

Thursday, September 23, 2021 Buffet Luncheon at the EPICENTER in Santa Rosa 11:00am ~ Dine Noon

Our guest speaker at our September luncheon will be **Vic Trione**. A Vietnam War vet, Vic wears many hats. To name just a few, he is Chairman of the Board of Directors of Luther Burbank Savings and Loan Association. He is president of Vimark, Inc., a real estate development and vineyard management company. He serves as Trustee - U.S. Navy Memorial Foundation in Washington D.C. Vic is the son of Henry Trione, whose name has been added to Annadel State Park, which is now officially Trione-Annadel State Park. We really look forward to meeting Vic and hearing about his amazing life.

Directions ~ Epicenter is on the corner of Coffey Lane. and Piner Road.

Traveling West on Piner Road. from Cleveland Avenue, go through the traffic light at Coffey Lane and almost immediately turn left into the parking lot in front of the big blue building with **Epicenter** written on the front.

Traveling East on Piner Road from Marlow Road, turn right into the parking lot after the big blue building and before reaching Coffey Lane. We are in the "**Trophy Room**."

Enter the building through the entrance closest to Piner Road, go through the "**Victory**" Restaurant on your left. The "**Trophy Room**" is at the back of the restaurant on the left side.

See Page 3, for more information.

ALL MUST MAKE RESERVATIONS, this is needed for head counts for meals and making name tags.

We hope to see many members there.

See information on our September "Pub Crawl" on Page 3

"Sunshine Lady"

Call Myrna Hurst, 707-468-0146,
if you know of anyone in the chapter who
might enjoy a get well or sympathy card.

ZOOM ~ MOAA BOARD MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Tuesday, September 7, 2021, 11:30am. Tim Morgan will be sending information on how to join the meeting. If a member of the Chapter wishes to join the meeting, you must contact us by e-mail and we will give you the information needed.

Chapter members are always welcome at these meetings.

Legislative Update September 2021

Federal

Federal Budget: As everyone pretty much knows, many detail still need to be worked out, but with Congress going on recess, nothing is really expected to happen before the latter part of September.

NDAA - National Defense Authorization Act 2021-2022. While negotiations continue regarding the budget, MOAA continues to push the following priority legislation:

S. 1488/ H.R. 2339 - Military Hunger Prevention Act. This will provide for basic necessities for junior enlisted families that struggle to make ends meet - particularly with the pandemic, frequent moves, etc.

H.R. 475 - Health Care Fairness for Military Families Act. The bill will expand TRICARE for young adults under 26 years in line with civilian standards.

Toxic Exposure Recognition Reform Act - This will bring the toxic exposure situation currently faced by Soldiers in the Middle East and elsewhere to the similar standards as those exposed by Agent Orange.

H.R. 2214 and S.1669 - The Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act. Financial concerns and stress can be a terrible burden on top of an already stressful situation for a newly widowed spouse. For some, when they discover DFAS may take part or all of that last retirement check back, it can be an overwhelming event which will allow survivors to gradually repay the amount over the next 12 months and have an opportunity to request for debt forgiveness through DoD.

COLA — The July 2021 CPI is 267.789, **5.7 percent** above the FY 20 COLA baseline. However, it is highly possible that the fight for our COLA, has just begun. During the past four decades, there have been many artifacts by which COLA has been reduced, proposed to be denied until after 62 years of age, etc. With a mounting national deficit already past \$3.3 trillion, and a national debt over \$27 trillion, we can expect deep budget cuts and extreme caps – sequestration will have a new life. This will put defense spending on its fiscal heels, fostering many ideas as to how to keep modernizing and where to find the money to do it. Stay alert!

State

AB 225 Boards -Military Spouses Licenses. This law **AB 291 Income taxation -Exclusion of Military Survivor Benefits.** This bill, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2021, and before January 1, 2026, would provide an exclusion from gross income for all survivor benefits or payments received on after January 1, 2021, and before January 1, 2026, under the federal Survivor Benefit Plan. CALMOAA supports this measure. With the current extra money in the State Treasury and the current political situation, perhaps this may be a win-win situation.

CALMOAA is gearing up an “all hands” effort to get something passed this year either with this bill or other. More information should be forthcoming within the next few weeks. **Stay tuned - your participation will be needed!**

**Vern McNamee, LTC, USA Retired
Legislative Chair, Redwood Empire Chapter, MOAA**

What would you like? Your Comments - Please.

I have been our chapter Legislative Affairs Chairman off and on since the last part of the 20th Century. However, I have asked a few times for your inputs before with little result, now in this period of crisis, I would like to know what you like or dislike of the articles I write. Write, call or email your thoughts. Don't worry about offending me - I have a thick skin developed through the ages.

LTC Vern McNamee, USA Ret

Email: vernonmcmnamee@mcn.org ~ **Cell:** 707-972-3066

Redwood Empire Chapter member CPT WILLIAM ANDERSON, USA

**Is offering his service to
members and veterans in need.**

He realizes that the country is presently going through a rough time, because of the present COVID-19 virus and shelter in place, there are a lot of people with many different needs. He is offering to our members and any veterans organizations his help.

As a landlord he can repair many house issues for our their members. **FREE!** They only need to pay for parts.

He can transport supplies. He lives in Santa Rosa. He owns 56 properties in this state alone and is his own maintenance service. He does many kinds of things. He still offers a weeks worth of good and 5 gallons of gas to needy members, vets and classmates.

Anyone can call him and he will give you more details.

Call: William Anderson at 707-331-0366

Here is a thank you letter from a person who CPT Anderson assisted:

Dear Major Johnson:

I am very grateful for the help you arranged for me, so quickly after I inquired about it on Tuesday. I want to express my deep appreciation for the repairs that were done in my home, by William A. K. Anderson, his son William V. E. Anderson, and his partner Joe Arango Amador, on Saturday.

I was overjoyed to have everything accomplished so quickly and expertly. It was very generous of the older William Anderson to spend a great deal of time gathering parts needed, from various locations, bringing them to my home and then inspecting things in my home that I hadn't even thought about needing an inspection, such as window locks and smoke alarms.

Joe and the younger William were both very skilled at doing repairs that were long overdue. They replaced two broken faucet sets, a broken back door lock, and did several other repairs that made things much easier and safer for me. I couldn't be happier with how things work now, and I feel confident that my home will now pass the upcoming inspection I was dreading.

This was a wonderful service that MOAA provided, and I would be very happy to show my appreciation by doing a photography or video project for anyone at MOAA who would like to have a recorded biography. I did this for my father when he was still here, and his little videos are still on YouTube for family and friends to enjoy, at:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/Gingeronymous>.

Thank you again for your gracious response to my request.

Sincerely,
Judy Loken

(A Sonoma County Main Chapter event; all members are more than welcome)

Buffet Luncheon, Thursday September 23, 2021

Epicenter, 3215 Coffey Lane, Santa Rosa

Socializing 11:00 to 11:45 am, Meeting starts, Lunch 12:00 noon

Cost (including tax and tip) - **Price \$26.00**

Salad: House salad available. Fresh Rolls & Butter.

Lunch: Barbecue chicken breast or Beef and mushrooms. French fries are also included along with Seasoned Vegetables.

Dessert: Cookies. Water, Iced Tea, Hot Tea and Coffee

Enclosed: is my check for my advanced reservation _____ persons @ \$26.00 each. \$ _____

Note: All must make **RESERVATIONS** Please Pre Pay if possible. (Late options only **Pay At Door**). **Information** is needed for head counts for meals and making name tags.

NO RESERVATION or Walk-Ins will cost \$30.00 per person.

Donations: Col. Brey Scholarship Fund (Fully Tax Deductible). \$ _____ **TOTAL: \$ _____**

Guest Speaker: Victor Trione

Name: _____, Phone: (_____) _____

Guests: _____, _____, _____, _____

Please list the names of all guest, so that we can make **NAME TAGS** for them too, thank you.

Make check (s) payable to: **RECMOAA**

To: MOAA, Redwood Empire Chapter, P.O. Box 2801, Santa Rosa, CA 95405

"Contact the Chapter Secretary @ 707-795-3963, prior to 10:00am, Tuesday

before the Thursday event to request a refund on prepaid meals."

Information on EPICENTER

The Chapter has confirmed that our luncheon will take place on the fourth Thursday of each month beginning at 11:00am and lasting until about 2:00pm. We will be in the EPICENTER **TROPHY** room and we have estimated our guests at about 30 diners. Their normal minimum to feed is 25 persons, but they are willing to work with us if there are less.

Each lunch comes with water, ice tea, and coffee. It is a buffet line and we will have a choice of two entrées and a side and one salad. The cost per person will be \$26.00.

Our menu for September will be a house salad and a choice from two entrées. The entrées this month will be Barbecue chicken breast or Beef and mushrooms. French fries are also included along with Seasoned Vegetables.

We have until three (3) days before the lunch to notify them of changes in quantity.

"Pub Crawl" by Ken Johnson

Please join us as we start an in person event for all our Chapters MOAA members. No agenda, just a place and a time where we can gather and share a beer or two and talk about items of interest to all of us. We're looking for a place that is easy for all of us to get to, and someplace that's quiet so we can gather in our own little corner and just talk and have time together. We are setting our next event at the *Graton Resort & Casino*, in Rohnert Park. They have several restaurants but the one I like is called the *Daily Grill*. It has both indoor and outdoor seating and a very nice menu. They have three large parking lots so there's plenty of room for parking.

We will try again to meet on the second Thursday, at 11:30am, September 9th. **NOTE: This is not just for the guys, the wives or spouses are more that welcome.** Our time and date for future meetings will be up to the needs of interested members. This is just the start of a fun way to get together and have great times together. A few of our members had a good time doing this by **ZOOM** meetings in the past. However I'm open to any input and suggestions, so call me if you have any questions at 408-466-6764.

Ken.

2021 DATES TO REMEMBER*

*COVID-19 Virus could change all these events and dates!

August:
25th United Veterans Council meeting
26th Luncheon, **Epicenter**,

September:
7th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Approval of 2022 officers
10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
** 18th - 19th Air Show at CMS Airport?
23rd Luncheon, **Epicenter**,
22nd United Veterans Council meeting

October:
5th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
27th United Veterans Council meeting
28th Luncheon, **Epicenter**, Election of Officers, 2022

November:
2nd BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
11th North Bay Veterans Day parade (Thursday)
19th Friday, Lobster Feed, Santa Rosa Veterans building
24th United Veterans Council meeting
25th Thanksgiving Day

December:
5th Holiday Social at “Sally Tomatoes”
7th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
** 7th Pearl Harbor Survivors program ??
10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
NO United Veterans Council meeting
25th Christmas

** = Not Confirmed at this time ~ **CNX** = Cancelled ~ **UNK** = Unknown

06/32/06

NOTE

The Lobster feed date has been confirmed for Friday, November 19, 2021

December 5th will be the Holiday Social Luncheon event. It will be located at “Sally Tomatoes” restaurant in Rohnert Park.

“GOOD SPEAKERS ARE NEEDED”

Chapter members:

Who do you want to hear from?

Please send your suggestions to

Don Nowacki, (707)528-2895,

or by e-mail: nowacki@sonic.net

MOAA WIVES CLUB

(Sonoma County Main - All members welcome)

2021 Officers

President: Dayle Johnson	408-466-6764
Vice President: Liz Warren	707-763-6957
Secretary: Tina Lewis	707-539-5546
Treasurer: Florence Wall	707-837-7389
Parliamentarian: Donna Poulter	707-576-0513

Finally! We will meet in person in September! The Flamingo is no longer an option, so we will have a buffet lunch at the Epicenter in west Santa Rosa on Wednesday, September 8th. The price is \$25.00. Lunch is served promptly at noon. The menu choices will be street tacos with carne asada, pesto chicken, Mexican corn, tortilla chips with salsa, and house salad.

If the Telephone Committee does not contact you, you may make a reservation up to the day before the meeting; however, cancellations must be made by Monday preceding the meeting. For either situation, call Susan Linch at 538-3342.

The guest speaker will be Barbara Confer. She will talk about her quilts. We look forward to the beautiful ones she'll bring with her!

Here are directions to the Epicenter. It is on the corner of Coffey Lane and Piner Road. Traveling west on Piner Road from Cleveland Avenue, go through the traffic light at Coffey Lane and almost immediately turn left into the parking lot in front of the big blue building with Epicenter written on the front. Traveling East on Piner Road from Marlow Road, turn right into the parking lot after the big blue building and before reaching Coffey Lane. We are in the Trophy Room. Enter the building through the entrance closest to Piner Road and go through the Victory Restaurant on your left. The Trophy Room is at the back of the restaurant on the left side.

Tina Lewis, Publicity 707-539-5546, tinalewis31@comcast.net

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO CHAPTER MEMBERS

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO BE OFFICERS OF THE CHAPTER AND TO SERVE ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. AT THE PRESENT TIME (2021) WE DO NOT HAVE A **FIRST VICE PRESIDENT**. PLEASE CONTACT ONE OF THE MEMBERS ON OUR BOARD AND GIVE THEM YOUR NAME AS A POSSIBLE CANDIDATE TO FILL IN FOR THIS YEAR.

CALL OR E-MAIL SECRETARY, ROBERT SAFRENO.
(707) 795-3963 ~ shadowbob1@juno.com

www.redwoodempiremoaa.us View us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/RECMOAA>

Redwood Empire Chapter Officers and Directors for 2021

<u>President:</u>	Maj Ken Johnson, USAF	408-466-6764
<u>1st Vice President</u>	(NONE AT THIS TIME)	
<u>2nd Vice President</u>	1/Lt Donald J. Nowacki, USANG	707-595-1047
<u>Secretary:</u>	Cpt Robert R. Safreno, USAF	707-795-3963
<u>Treasurer:</u>	LCDR Tim Morgan, USNR	707-695-9293
<u>Imed. Past President:</u>	CPT Lee P. Hoskins, USA	707-328-2316

CAL-MOAA Director, Area I

Chuck Jamison

Directors-at-large - Term 2021-2022

Martina Lewis	707-539-5546
Susan Linch	707-538-3342
LTC Gary Meagher, AUS	707-544-4089
Mary-Gwen Neisingh	707-481-7614

Directors-at-large - Term 2021

Mrs. Myrna M. Hurst	707-468-0146
Col Jack L. Krout, USAF	707-762-8613
Donna Poulter	707-576-0513
CPT Lewis Wall, USA	707-837-7389

Directors Representing Sub-Chapters:

<u>Lake:</u>	CAPT Daniel W. Christensen,	707-263-3297
<u>Mendocino:</u>	Mrs. Myrna M. Hurst	707-468-0146
<u>Sonoma Valley:</u>	Maj B. K. White, USMC	707-996-1335

MOAA VOICE

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